

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An aqueous dispersion for nail enamel, comprising a copolymer (E) having a weight-average molecular weight, as determined by gel-permeation chromatography, of 10,000 or more and 40,000 or less as polystyrene, the copolymer (E) is obtainable by polymerizing a total of 100 wt parts of a monomer (A) selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and benzyl (meth)acrylate and a radical-polymerization unsaturated monomer (B) other than the monomer (A) in an aqueous medium in the presence of 0.1 to 10.0 wt parts of a mercaptopropionic acid derivative (C) represented by the following General Formula (1):

General Formula (1)  $(HS-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{COO})_n-\text{R}$

wherein, n is an integer of 1 to 4; and R represents an alkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms or an alkoxyalkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms when n is 1 and an n-valent organic residue when n is 2 to 4.

Claim 2 (Original): The aqueous dispersion for nail enamel according to Claim 1, which is obtainable by emulsion polymerization by using an anionic emulsifier (F) having one or more unsaturated radical-polymerization groups.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The aqueous dispersion for nail enamel according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the monomer (A) is contained in an amount of 1 to 50 wt % with respect to a total of 100 wt % of the monomer (A) and the radical-polymerization unsaturated monomer (B) other than the monomer (A).

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** The aqueous dispersion for nail enamel according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the copolymer (E) is 50 to 80°C.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** The aqueous dispersion for nail enamel according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the mercaptopropionic acid derivative (C) is octyl mercaptopropionate.

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** The aqueous dispersion for nail enamel according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of the copolymer (E) is 30 to 100 nm.

**Claim 7 (Original):** A method of producing an aqueous dispersion for nail enamel comprising a copolymer (E) having a weight-average molecular weight, as determined by gel-permeation chromatography, of 10,000 or more and 40,000 or less as polystyrene, which comprises: polymerizing a total of 100 wt parts of a monomer (A) selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and benzyl (meth)acrylate and a radical-polymerization unsaturated monomer (B) other than the monomer (A) in an aqueous medium in the presence of 0.1 to 10.0 wt parts of a mercaptopropionic acid derivative (C) represented by the following General Formula (1):

General Formula (1)  $(HS-CH_2-CH_2-COO)_n-R$ ,

wherein R represents an alkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms or an alkoxyalkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms when n is 1 and an n-valent organic residue when n is 2 to 4.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An aqueous nail enamel composition, comprising [[the]] ~~a copolymer (E) according to any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ in an amount of 10 to 60 wt %, wherein the copolymer (E) has a weight-average molecular weight of 10,000 or more and 40,000 or less as polystyrene, the copolymer (E) is obtainable by polymerizing a total of 100 wt parts of a monomer (A) selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and benzyl (meth)acrylate and a radical-polymerization unsaturated monomer (B) other than the monomer (A) in an aqueous medium in the presence of 0.1 to 10.0 wt parts of a mercaptopropionic acid derivative (C) represented by the following General Formula (1):

General Formula (1) (HS-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-COO)<sub>n</sub>-R

wherein, n is an integer of 1 to 4; and R represents an alkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms or an alkoxyalkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms when n is 1 and an n-valent organic residue when n is 2 to 4.

Claim 9 (Original): The aqueous nail enamel composition according to Claim 8, further comprising a lower alcohol having a boiling point of lower than 100°C in an amount of 0.5 to 15 wt %.

Claim 10 (Original): An aqueous dispersion for nail enamel, comprising a copolymer (E) dispersed in an aqueous medium, the copolymer (E) having a weight-average molecular weight of 10,000 or more and 40,000 or less, formed from a monomer (A) selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and benzyl (meth)acrylate and a radical-polymerization unsaturated monomer (B) other than the monomer (A) as the constituent units, and having a mercaptopropionic acid derivative represented by the following Formula (I) at the terminal thereof:

Preliminary Amendment  
Application No. 10/574,550

General Formula (1)  $(HS-CH_2-CH_2-COO)_n-R$ ,

wherein R represents an alkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms or an alkoxyalkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms when n is 1 and an n-valent organic residue when n is 2 to 4.